



GATHER Domestic Violence/Violence Prevention Committee

6/15/06, 3:30, Mass InfoTech, 9 Taunton Green, Rear

Attendees: Deb Brown (TPS), Rosalie Kern (DSS), Anne Kotch (Katrina Survivor), Annemarie Matulis (MassInfotech), Lorraine Rosa (CHNA24/GTHHSC), Jennifer Tinglof (SEMA-VAV).

Discussion Highlights:

Current October Make a Difference Day Projects:

- **Dress to Impress Project** held a press conference. Volunteers are working on a room in the basement of the First Parish Church, Taunton, where the project will be hosted for at least a year. The project is already open for business, with the goal of offering each agency-referred participant one interview-ready outfit at no cost. Calls have come from local residents, women's clubs, government employees, retired professionals, widows, a terminal cancer patient, DV survivors, with about 30% of the callers having also asked about how they can help with or participate in the other domestic violence activities noted at the press conference. The next drop off date is July 22, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, at the First Parish Church (use the entrance across from the Historical Society). Donations continue coming in, and may be dropped off or picked up, by calling 508-824-3227. Clothing in all sizes, hangers for pants, slacks and skirts are needed, as well volunteers to staff the project for 2-3 hours per month. It is hoped that by Make a Difference Day in October, there will be over 200 pieces of men's and women's clothing available. Information will soon be available at <http://www.semavav.org>. The process is labor friendly, by appointment, and represents an ongoing issue. Spread the word for donations, as well as the services provided!
- **Verizon Wireless Hopeline Cell Phones Project** donations may be made by calling Annemarie, **508-824-3227**. At a future date, donations will be accepted at Dress to Impress.
- **2006 Through My Eyes: Voices Against Violence, Voices of Hope** is accepting poems, essays, art work and posters from anyone in SE MA who has been the victim of crime, has witnessed a crime or wishes to speak out in support of victims' rights. Deadline for submissions is **10/28/06**. Guidelines are posted at <http://www.semavav.org>. Every entry will receive a certificate of appreciation, and prizes available for each category. For more information call 508-824-3227 or email matulisannie@msn.com.

Bristol County Domestic Violence Round Table has instituted quarterly meetings. The first will be held **9/12/06**, 2:30, at Attleboro DSS. Other meetings are as follows: **12/5/06** (Fall River), **3/6/07** (Taunton), **6/12/07** (New Bedford). Meetings will include CHNA best practices, hot topics and legal cases.



Garden of Hope – G. Lopes Construction has donated 5 yards of mulch to the beautification project at Triumph HeadStart. The project is ready for the landscape architecture portion. Suggestions are as follows: Bristol-Plymouth High School Green House program, T.H.S. and Parker School Summer programs, MA Federation of Garden Clubs, and Eagle or Girl Scouts. The project can be tied in to youth at risk and family violence background. Several other areas of the city in need of beautification were suggested.

The Quite Passing of GATHER – The GATHER name is headed for retirement. Both the Domestic Violence/Violence Prevention Committee and the Substance Abuse Committee has experienced greater Attleboro commitment. CHNA 24 is the only Community Health Network Area with two hubs: Attleboro and Taunton, with 10 surrounding communities. The DV/VP committee cannot be the entity for all 12 communities, but the new CHNA structure allows for a central group to serve as the place for networking, needs assessment, channeling information and looking at needs and gaps. The group will meet quarterly. Each committee and/or coalition will have the opportunity to be an affiliate of the CHNA. The CHNA chairpersonship will be rotated by representatives. (See CHNA Planning Committee minutes).

A New Name – Given the retirement of the GATHER name, the GATHER DV/VP Committee unanimously voted to adopt the new name Southeastern MA Voices Against Violence.

Next Steps:

Create a "Dress to Impress" brochure (Annemarie)

Next Meeting:

GATHER DV/VP: **9/21/06, 3:30**, (3rd Thursday of the Month), Location TBA

Contact Person: Annemarie Matulis, **508-922-7278** cell, or matulisannie@msn.com

Serving the communities of

Attleboro, Berkley, Dighton, Lakeville, Mansfield, Middleboro, North Attleboro, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Taunton